Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The YWCA movement was established in mid-19th century London. A group of young working women soon began encouraging family values and humane working conditions in industrialized cities, and giving women opportunities to grow and succeed in all realms of life; and,

Whereas, Young working women needed a place to gather in the '20s and '30s. The YWCA provided an employment bureau, classes, and a room registry, and rooms when women needed a place to live. The YWCA came through when women had no place to swim, when battered women needed shelter, when immigrants needed a place to gather, when girls had no summer camp, and when working mothers needed daycare. The Sioux Falls YWCA remodeled to expand its daycare program when child care became a need for mothers, and in 1961, the Sioux Falls YWCA moms started one of the first preschools and daycares, located in a public place, within the city; and,

Whereas, The YWCA served as a social and cultural center for teenagers and women, whose husbands had gone to fight in World War II. In the '50s and '60s, the YWCA was the center of teen social activity; and,

Whereas, Aerobics were introduced to the YWCA and Sioux Falls, and the YWCA became more socially active by the late '70s and early '80s. In 1983, Outreach provided parenting programs for single moms who didn't have those skills. The YWCA scheduled workshops to help women get involved when they began to run for political office. The YWCA was the place for many of the first workshops about discrimination, the Equal Rights Amendment, and equal pay. The YWCA provided opportunities for women to grow as leaders; and,

Whereas, With the YWCA Sioux Falls's 90th Anniversary celebration, past and present board members, donors, participants, and community members will continue to build, promote, and experience the innovation, exercise programs, childcare opportunities, teen influence, and leadership building of which the YWCA has always invested:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 2, 2011, as

YWCA DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirteenth Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason Gant

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State